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Testimony
submitted to the
Education Committee
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SB 943 AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND REFORM

SB 944 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT

HB 6834 AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

HB 6837 AN ACT ENCOURAGING A GRADUATED RESPONSE MODEL FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE

SB 963 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR AND FREE MARKET CAPITALISM CURRICULUM

HB 6835 AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

SB 943 AN ACT CONCERNING CHARTER SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND REFORM

CABE supports the provisions of SB 943, An Act Concerning Charter School Modernization and Reform, which require a plan to share student learning practices and experiences with the local and regional board of education. The sharing of experiences was part of the original impetus for the creation of charter schools in Connecticut, and CABE is happy to serve as a vehicle to help disseminate this information statewide. We also support proposals to create transparency in the monitoring of student academic achievement and charter school budgets.

SB 944 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN REQUIREMENT

In order to implement this requirement effective July 1, 2017, there will be a need for resources targeted to those districts who have not yet been able to move to full-day kindergarten.

HB 6834 AN ACT CONCERNING COLLABORATION BETWEEN BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

HB 6837 AN ACT ENCOURAGING A GRADUATED RESPONSE MODEL FOR STUDENT DISCIPLINE

CABE encourages boards of education to enter into memoranda of understanding with law enforcement agencies when they are used as school resource officers. This is a critical component in establishing a productive and effective working relationship between the school, the SRO and the local police department. We also provide model policies to districts concerning a graduated response for student discipline.

SB 963 AN ACT CONCERNING LABOR AND FREE MARKET CAPITALISM CURRICULUM

Given the multiple other priorities at the State Department of Education, it seems unnecessary to impose another specific subject area in the curriculum resources that they are to develop and make available to school districts.

HB 6835 AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

CABE is concerned about the cost increase to districts to provide a program of bilingual education where there are as few as 6 students who are non-English speakers. In addition, the extension of a bilingual education program from the 30 months to 60 months carries an additional price tag, and may in fact not be in the best interest of all students.

SB 962 AN ACT CONCERNING THE MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

As drafted, this bill not only requires that the program of instruction include computer programming, the safety of social media, investigative detention and arrest, and CPR, but also extends the requirement for world languages beginning in grade 6. This bill would clearly impose an additional cost burden on school districts. In addition, additional specific curriculum requirements are in direct competition with a move to a more personalized learning experience for all our students. We urge you to reject this bill.